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EDGAR SNOWDEN, JR.

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SCENE IN THE U. S. SENATE.—Yesterday in the Senate, when the Railroad bill was under discussion:

Mr. McDougall, (D.) of California, said the person at the head of the War Department was a base man. He had promised the President of the United States in his own house that he would denounce the Secretary of War. There ought to be a President of the United States.

Mr. Morrill, (R.) of Maine, called the Senator to order, as his remarks were not relevant.

The Chair (Mr. Anthony) decided the point well taken.

Mr. McDougall, (D.) of California. I declare here in my place before the Senate, on my own responsibility, that the man who is at the head of the War department is a man who has wronged the country.

The Chair called the Senator to order.

Mr. McDougall, (D.) of California. I appeal from the decision of the Chair. I want to know whether a Senator of the United States is equal to a Secretary of War.

Mr. Trumbull, (R.) of Illinois, appealed to the Senator to withdraw the call for an appeal.

Mr. McDougall, of California. Well, I will withdraw it; but I would like an expression of opinion, to see whether the Senate of the United States dare speak the truth.

The bill was then passed—yeas 22, nays 16.

George M. Snyder, of the 96th Pennsylvania, about nine o'clock on Friday night, entered the front room of the office of the provost marshal of the War Department, in Washington, and ordered a hot whisky punch. One of the detectives answered that he would fill the order. While Snyder was halting for his drink he fell asleep. He was very much astonished when an order was issued committing him to the Central guard-house.

The State Lunatic Asylum, at Nashville, a splendid stone edifice, was destroyed by fire on the morning of February 20. It had recently been used as a military hospital, and at the time of the fire there were 240 patients in the building. All of them were rescued, and the medical stores were also saved.

The schooner William Stairs, which arrived at Halifax yesterday from Trinidad, reports that on February 10th, in latitude 27, longitude 69, she exchanged signals with the Alabama. She first showed the Federal and then the Confederate flag.

It is reported that the Confederates who invaded Kentucky were defeated in a skirmish near Mount Sterling. On Thursday afternoon a train of twenty cars was captured on the Louisville and Nashville railroad, not far from Bowling Green, by a party of Confederates.

From careful inquiry in military quarters, there appears to be no possible ground on which to verify the newspaper rumors of apprehended raids by Gen. Jackson or others towards Strasburg or the valley of Virginia.

Elihu Burritt, the "learned blacksmith," is lecturing in England with marked success.

Gold in New York, yesterday, 169½.

## THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY POTOMAC, Feb. 27.

—On Wednesday night two Confederate cavalry brigades (Fitzhugh Lee's and Hamptons's) attempted to make a raid into the Federal rear lines. They crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford, and succeeded by a strong attack in breaking the thin lines of cavalry outposts at one or two points, capturing a small number of the Federals. [Federal loss about 40.]

The Federal cavalry out post reserves were quickly brought up, and the lines immediately established, and a force sent in pursuit, making some captures, including two or three Confederate officers. The Confederates entirely failed in accomplishing their object, and retreated in great haste across the Rappahannock, felling trees across the road, and placing other obstacles in the way of the pursuing force. The cavalry which were sent out in pursuit of the Confederates have not yet returned. The Confederate cavalry were commanded by Gen. Stuart in person. One of the prisoners captured is Capt. John Alexander, of the Second Virginia Cavalry.—[Associated Press dispatch.]

A Port Royal letter to the New York Tribune makes the announcement that a force of five thousand negroes, led by whites and supported by regular troops, is just ready to enter one of the most densely populated districts of the Department of the South, to "surprise the rebels with the reality of servile insurrection!"

The House bill extending the charter of the Alexandria and Washington Railroad Company, passed the Senate, yesterday, with some slight amendments, the most material of which were to prevent the running of steam engines through the city, and exempting their property from taxation. Under this bill, the charter of the company is extended from the south end of the Potomac bridge, as the same is now constructed, along Maryland avenue to the Capitol grounds, and across Pennsylvania avenue, along First street to Indiana avenue, and thence to the Baltimore and Ohio depot. There is to be no exclusion of colored people from the cars.

The Washington Star says:—"That everlasting humbug, the Rev. C. W. Dennison, who was stricken from the roll of Army chaplains lately by the President, turns up again in a letter to the New York Commercial Advertiser from Liverpool, he having by some of his feats of hocus pocus managed to secure a passage on the packet George Griswold that took out the American contributions for the relief of the distressed English operatives. He writes:—"My lot has been cast, from hospital duty among the wounded and dying patriots of your country, to that of a sharer in the mission of mercy of the American packet ship George Griswold, loaded with food for the famishing operatives of Lancashire." Pious Chawles!

The story that was published about a Confederate vessel in the China seas, which was to destroy all U. S. ships, is untrue. The ship Selim, which is said to have spoken the vessel, did not do so at all.

U. S. CONGRESS.—In the Senate yesterday the bill to incorporate an institution for the education of colored youth of the District of Columbia was passed. The committee of conference on the finance bill reported, and the Senate insisting on its amendment taxing bank circulation, a new committee was ordered.—The bill to extend the Wash. and Alexandria railroad was passed. The committee of conference on the bill to limit the number of major and brigadier generals made a report recommending that the former be seventy and the latter two hundred and seventy-five. In the House the consideration of the bill amendatory of the internal revenue bill was resumed in committee of the whole, and several important amendments adopted. Among them was one taxing the profits of all banks of issue three per ct. A new section was adopted so that all persons removing to new houses for trade and business shall continue without a new license. When the committee rose the bill was reported to the House, with the recommendation that it be passed.

On Saturday last two drafted soldiers of the 34th Wisconsin Regiment, claiming their discharge on the ground that they were not citizens, not having taken out their papers, but who had been taken in charge by officers and confined for safe keeping by desire of Major General Pope, were brought before a Commissioner in Milwaukee on a writ of habeas corpus, and, after argument, were discharged. Gen. Pope, upon service of the writ, immediately responded, evincing throughout the utmost respect for the authority of the Court.

The workmen are preparing to hold a mass meeting, in New York, to protest against "importing" any more English workmen. Some trades are also in favor of working only nine hours a day. A union of all trades is in contemplation, and to further this plan a convention will be convened.

During a heavy fog on Thursday, a collision occurred between two of the ferry boats, Seneca and Nebraska, on East River, N. Y., one of which sunk. There were one thousand passengers on board at the time, but all are safe.

Col. Tompkins, U. S. Assistant Quartermaster at N. York, died yesterday. He was a resident of that city for many years. He graduated at West Point in 1820, and was through the Florida war.

The Hagerstown, Md., Herald says:—"We have been told by persons who have recently visited the battle-field of Antietam that at several places in that vast grave-yard the limbs of the dead protrude from the ground.—Those who fell on that memorable field were hastily and superficially buried, and now that the ground has settled, and perhaps in some instances been partially washed away by the rains, many bodies have but a thin covering of earth over them. This will wear away in the course of time, and the bodies will be entirely exposed."